Mega Power Projects

486. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the private power players have asked Government to do a proper evaluation of the escrow capacity of individual States to ensure that they support the payment obligations arising on account of five ultra mega power projects in the country;

(b) whether this issue of viable payment security mechanism came up during a meeting between Government and private sector chaired by the Finance Minister; and

(c) the proposed mega power projects are going to be set up in India?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The matter related to payment security mechanism was discussed in the meeting chaired by the Finance Minister and it was suggested that the payment security mechanism of proposed Ultra Mega Power Projects could be on following lines:

(i) Revolving Letter of Credit by distribution licensees;

(ii) Escrow account establishing irrevocable claims of receivables of distribution Utility;

(iii) In a likely event of any default, direct supply to HT consumers or any other more credible distribution licensees as per the provisions of Electricity Act, 2003.

(c) Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka and Maharashtra are the States in which a ultra mega project each is envisaged to be set up in the first phase.

Supply of Electricity from National Grid

487. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested

the Central Government for additional supply of electricity from the National Grid;

(b) if so, the decision taken by Government in this regard;

(c) the details thereof;

(d) the measures being adopted by the PGCIL for strengthening the transmission and distribution system of power in the Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) the time by which the work on strengthening the transmission and distribution system of power is likely to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) No request for allocation of additional power has been received from Andhra Pradesh during the last one year.

(d) and (e) Strengthening of transmission system within the State is basically the responsibility of State utilities and in the State of Andhra Pradesh, the same is being looked after by Transmission Corporation of Andhra Pradesh (APTRANSCO). Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) is responsible for developing regional transmission system. In the Southern Region, the following regional transmission schemes, which would benefit all the States of Southern Region are under execution:

(i) Kaiga—Narendra Transmission system

(ii) Nelamangala—Mysore Transmission scheme

(iii) Southern Region system strengthening scheme-III

(iv) Southern Region system strengthening scheme-IV

(v) Southern Region system strengthening scheme-V

(vi) Southern Region system strengthening scheme-VI

(vii) Upgradation of Talcher—Kolar HVDC Bipole.

In addition, the following regional schemes are under consideration for taking up for execution during Eleventh Plan:

(i) Southern Region system strengthening scheme-VII

(ii) Transmission system associated with Kudankulam App.

(iii) Transmission system associated with Kaiga APPU-3&4.

(iv) Transmission system associated with Neyveli TPS-II Extn.

(v) Second spare converter transformer for Talcher—Kolar HVDC link.

Strengthening of Distribution System:

PGCIL is not implementing any scheme for strengthening of distribution system in Andhra Pradesh. However, Government of India has approved the Acceleratd Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) which is intended for up-gradation of sub-transmission and distribution in densely electrified zones in the urban and industrial areas and improvement in commercial viability zones in the urban and industrial areas and improvement in commercial viability of State Electricity Boards by reducing the aggregate technical and commercial (AT&C) losses. In Andhra Pradesh, 101 projects amounting to Rs. 1460.36 Crores have been sanctioned under APDRP and work has already commenced in all the projects.

Status of Dabhol Power Project

488. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Dabhol Power Project (DPP);

(b) whether any decision has been taken by Government to set up a company in the name of Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to look after the work and progress of DPP;

(c) if so, the details of the share holding pattern of SPV;

(d) the share percentage/proportion of Government bodies;

(e) the total power generating capacity of the project and the time by which it is likely to be started;

(f) whether keeping in view the power crisis in several States Government propose to expedite the process; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) An Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) has been set up by the Government of India to examine and decide all issues related to the Dabhol